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CABINET AFFAIRS STAFFING MEMORANDUM

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	March 13 and	22, 198	5 Meetings			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
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RETURN TO:

☐ Alfred H. Kingon
Cabinet Secretary
456-2823
(Ground Floor, West Wing)

Resources and Environment.

Don Clarey

☐ Tom Gibson

Larry Herbolsheimer

Associate Director
Office of Cabinet Affairs

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

CABINET COUNCIL ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

March 13, 1985, 2:00 p.m.

Roosevelt Room

MINUTES

Participants: Hodel, Block, Herrington, Thomas, Hill, Brown, Wright, Niskanen, Svahn, Verstandig, Davis, Clarey, Ravan, Risque, Gall, Smith, Malone, Johnson, Dawson, Habicht.

Secretary Hodel brought the meeting to order and called upon Administrator Thomas to brief members of the Council on EPA's proposed legislation reauthorizing the Clean Water Act. Administrator Thomas indicated that EPA's proposed amendments deviate substantially from some of the positions which the Administration took in 1982. Specifically, EPA proposed to not seek previous Administration proposals to provide pre-treatment variances, municipal deadline extensions, and easier to meet criteria for thermal standards variances. Administrator Thomas indicated that these proposals had been extremely controversial when proposed in the last Congress, and had been rejected by both the House and Senate Committees.

Administrator Thomas then went on to describe in some detail the legislative package which EPA is proposing. Most of the provisions relate to improving the administration of the current Clean Water Act and none, other than the extension of the BAT/BCT compliance deadlines, are essential.

Discussion then centered on the EPA proposal to provide water quality-based variances from BAT requirements for certain non-conventional pollutants. After a lengthy discussion concerning the advisability of listing specific pollutants as being "non-conventional," the Council instructed the Office of Policy Development and EPA staff to work on making sure that the variance language would work as designed. The staff was also instructed to work on the issue of whether or not dischargers should be required to continue to comply with certain existing, more stringent technology-based discharge requirements, even though newly-established requirements are less stringent.

Secretary Hodel indicated that these issues would be discussed again at the next Cabinet Council meeting with a proposal on the construction grants portion of the legislative package.

Secretary Hodel then briefly described his current thinking on the next five-year, outer continental shelf leasing plan which he is required by law to announce. Secretary Hodel indicated that he would most likely make an announcement on March 21, which would begin a long process of public involvement before a final five-year plan is completed. It is currently contemplated that the following process would be followed in putting together the final five-year plan:

Draft Proposed Program

60 days comment

Publish Proposed Program

90 days comment

Publish Proposed Final

60 days comment

Final Approval and Announcement

The Secretary said that at the present time, he is leaning toward a slower leasing schedule, focusing on the most promising acreage. The meeting was then adjourned.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

CABINET COUNCIL ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

March 22, 1985, 10:00 a.m.

Room 476, Old Executive Office Building

-MINUTES

Participants: Hodel, Herrington, Thomas, Hill, Burnley, Davis, Clarey, Boggs, Bear, Risque, Khedouri, Smith, Constable, Johnson, Ikle, Habicht, Pearlman, Meyers, Dawson.

Secretary Hodel brought the meeting to order and called upon EPA Administrator Lee Thomas to provide an update on the status of the Clean Water Act amendments. Administrator Thomas indicated that essentially all remaining issues have been worked out with those agencies having an interest in the Administration's Clean Water Act legislation. Acting Secretary of the Corps of Engineers Dawson indicated that one part of the proposed legislation still concerned the Corps. This provision related to Section 404 enforcement authorities. Mr. Dawson felt confident that this issue would not prove to be a major impediment to finishing work on this legislation.

Secretary Hodel requested that Alan Hill, Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality, provide a status report on worst case analysis. Chairman Hill provided a historical overview of worst case analysis, which is presently required under CEQ regulations pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. These regulations provide that, in the case of incomplete information relating to a major federal action affecting the environment, an agency is to perform a worst case analysis of possible environmental impacts. CEQ held a public meeting on this issue on Monday, March 18. Chairman Hill indicated that the CEQ would be circulating a draft of proposed changes to the worst case analysis regulations for interagency review within the next several weeks.

Secretary Herrington was recognized for the purpose of making a presentation on expiring provisions on the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA). The Secretary expressed his view that the Department of Energy preferred to seek a simple extension of expiring EPCA provisions, rather than reopen debate on the entire range of issues presented by EPCA. Acting Deputy Secretary of Defense Fred Ikle expressed concern that the Department of Defense's supply requirements should not be overlooked and

reminded the Council that the DOD supply assurance working group which had been ordered by the President has not yet been established. He indicated that the Department of Defense preferred a simple extension of expiring authorities.

Deputy Secretary Burnley expressed the Department of Transportation's concern about opening up other titles of the Act which presently do not expire. He felt that this may be the outcome if the Administration attempts to comprehensively amend EPCA. Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Johnson sought assurance that the Department of Energy testimony would reflect the concern of the Administration with some provisions of EPCA notwithstanding the fact that we were seeking reauthorization. Secretary Hodel expressed his view that some consideration should be given to proposing economic response measures with reauthorization legislation.

After further discussion, it was generally agreed that the Department of Energy would deliver testimony which sought to extend EPCA, but which would indicate some concern with certain provisions in the existing legislation.

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in the Roosevelt Room. The agenda is as follows:

Energy Policy Conservation Act (EPCA) Reauthorization (paper attachedT

Clean Water Act (paper distributed on 3/11)

RETURN TO:

☐ Alfred H. Kingon **Cabinet Secretary** 456-2823 (Ground Floor, West Wing)

Don Clarey ☐ Tom Gibson

Larry Herbolsheimer

Associate Director Office of Cabinet Affairs